

**REGULATORY PROGRAM
PERMIT ACTION**

APPLICANT: Monterey County/Santa Cruz County

AREA: Pajaro River, Monterey & Santa Cruz Counties, California.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 17th District, Rep. Sam Farr

DESCRIPTION: The buildup of vegetation and sandbars in the Pajaro River channel between the river mouth and the Murphy Road crossing reduces the channel's flood capacity. There is a great fear of additional lawsuits against both Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties if flooding occurs again as it did in 1998. In 2003 Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties became co-applicants on a permit to maintain the river channel.

STATUS: In March of 2004 the Corps requested a Section 7 consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on impacts of the project on steelhead. The Section 7 consultation has not been initiated by NMFS. In December 2005 NMFS stated they have not received all of the information necessary to initiate consultation. They requested the Corps provide, via a detailed computer model, information to accurately assess the potential for the proposed action to impair steelhead migration patterns and the effect on flood stage elevations. There has been no change in the status since that time.

POINTS OF CONTACT: Deputy District Engineer for Civil Works, Arijs Rakstins (415) 977-8702